

Finley's interesting book is limited to about two dozen species of American birds, practically all of them western, with sometimes eastern names. Its scope and character is thus stated by the author: "In this book no attempt has been made to include all the different bird families, but a series of representative birds from the hummingbird to the eagle has been selected. Each chapter represents a close and continued study with camera and notebook at the home of some bird or group of birds,— a true life history of each species. It is the bird as a live creature, its real wild personality and character, that I have tried to portray." The twenty chapters treat of about twenty-five species, each of which is illustrated by a series of excellent photographs of the living bird, its nest, eggs and young, the latter often at several different stages of growth. Although localities and dates are usually omitted, the stories are detailed and pleasantly written, and give a vast amount of information about the ways of life and individualities of the species here so faithfully and sympathetically portrayed and described. There is also entire absence of technicalities in the treatment, which lapses at times into loose statements hardly to be looked for in a book naturally expected to be scientifically accurate as well as popular, in the sense of being non-technical, as where the author tells his readers: "But a list of birds that every one should know could not be complete without our two commonest studies in blue, the Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) and the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). In all our woods, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, one may find these two, one gentle and friendly, the other bold, boisterous, and untrustful." And this despite the fact that neither of these species is found nearer the Pacific coast than the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains! The "young Blue Jays" shown in the accompanying illustrations are *Aphelocoma californica*, the California Jay, and the Bluebirds are evidently the Western Bluebird, *Sialia mexicana occidentalis*. Such lapses from the truth, whether intentional or otherwise, are apt to leave with the reader who knows better, a rather unpleasant impression.— J. A. A.

**Ihering's Birds of Brazil.**<sup>1</sup>— This is the first of a series of volumes on the Fauna of Brazil, in which will be given a synopsis of the present knowledge of the animals of this great country, to be published by the Museu Paulista. The present volume is an annotated Check-List of the birds, so far as known to the authors, and follows the classification and nomenclature of the British Museum 'Hand-list' and 'Catalogue of Birds.' Although the rule of priority is recognized as mandatory, and the tenth edition of the 'Systema Nat ræ' of Linnæus (1758) is regarded as the

<sup>1</sup> Catalogos | da | Fauna Brasileira | Editados pelo | Museu Paulista | S. Paulo — Brazil | — | Vol. I | As Aves do Brazil. | Pelo Prof. Dr. Hermann von Ihering | Director do Museu Paulista | e | Rodolpho von Ihering | Custos do Museu Paulista | [vignette] Sao Paulo | Typographia do Diario Official | 1907 — 8vo, pp. xxxviii + 485, and 2 maps, + 3 leaves = 2 title pages and contents.

proper starting point of binomial nomenclature, the authors fail sometimes to follow these announced principles through adopting a system of nomenclature beginning with the twelfth edition of Linnæus (1766).

An introduction of some 20 pages contains a sketch of ornithological exploration in Brazil, its faunal regions as indicated by a study of its avifauna, zoögeographical considerations, the preparation of the present catalogue, and questions of nomenclature and terminology, a list of the principal literature, and a systematic index. The two maps show (1) the distribution of forests and campos in South America, and (2) the zoögeographic zones of Brazil and their subdivisions. These are indicated as Fauna amazonica, Fauna do Brazil central, and Fauna do Brazil littoral, each with a subdivision.

The present volume enumerates 400 genera, 1567 species, and 213 subspecies, of which 1102 species are represented in the Museu Paulista by 6984 specimens. The technical name of each species in the Catalogue is followed by a reference to the volume and page of the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds' where it is described; by its vernacular name; by the citation of references to it, if any, in von Ihering's papers in the 'Revista do Museu Paulista,' and sometimes other references; by a statement of its geographical distribution, in general terms, and by a list of localities represented by specimens in the Museu Paulista. In case of species or subspecies described since the publication of the British Museum Catalogue a reference is given to the place of original description. There are also often brief technical notes on questions of nomenclature and the status and relationship of forms. In the Addenda (pp. 406-423) are further notes on a number of species, with the addition of others described during the printing of the work, etc. An Appendix of fifteen pages contains reprints of descriptions of four species of hummingbirds described by E. J. da Silva Maia in 1843 and 1852. Alphabetic indexes to both the scientific and vernacular names close this important and highly useful volume.— J. A. A.

**Beal on Birds as Conservators of the Forest.**— In a paper of 40 quarto pages,<sup>1</sup> with 12 colored plates, Professor Beal treats of the utility of birds as protectors of forests. About one half of the text is, as would be expected, devoted to the Woodpeckers, the rest to a varied assortment of birds belonging to a number of families, as Nuthatches, Creepers, Jays, Finches, Warblers, Thrushes, Vireos, Cuckoos, etc. The verdict is reached that birds, particularly tree-inhabiting species, are of decided economic importance. The woodpeckers are ranked as of the highest value as destroyers of injurious tree-infesting insects, since they seek out and destroy the wood-boring larvæ of many noxious species. Other birds search the bark, and others still the leaves, for caterpillars and other insect pests. The

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<sup>1</sup> Birds as Conservators of the Forest. By F. E. L. Beal. Rep. New York Forest, Fish and Game Commission, 1902-3, pp. 235-274, with 12 colored plates, by L. A. Fuertes. Published November, 1906.